

Message Text

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11

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-10 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /068 W

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O R 220925Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5530

INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM

NAVCOMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMSTR NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 8753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: REPAIRMAN THEORY

REF: (A) ADDIS 8528 PARA 3; (B) STATE 168634; (C) STATE 171493

(D) FBIS AMMAN DTG 211450Z JUL 75

1. PURSUANT DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL (REF B) OF LINE OF ACTION PROPOSED BY EMBASSY IN PARA 3 REF A AND IN LIGHT REFS C AND D, EMBASSY WILL SEEK TODAY CONTACT BOTH PUBLIC SECURITY AND NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSIONER TO DISCUSS ADMITTEDLY LIMITED CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THUS FAR AVAILABLE TO US SUGGESTING THAT ABDUCTORS MAY INTEND USE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF KIDNAPPED PERSONNEL. WE WILL WORK FROM STATEMENT (BELOW)-WHICH WE WILL LEAVE AS BOUT DE PAPIER --AND INVITE AUTHORITIES INTENSIFY THEIR INTELLIGENCE COVERAGE OF TESSENEI AREA WITH ALL DUE REGARD FOR SAFETY OF PRISONERS.

2. BEGIN STATEMENT: QUOTE. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABDUCTION ON
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JULY 14, 1975 OF TWO AMERICAN AND 4 ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS FROM ASMARA,

THE DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE EPMG, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS THE HONOR TO INVITE ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WHICH SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY BE THE INTENTION OF THE ABDUCTORS TO EMPLOY THE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF SOME OF THESE MEN TO REPAIR A RADIO TRANSMITTER OPERATED BY INSURGENT ELEMENTS IN THE TESSENEI AREA.

THE LIMITED EVIDENCE THUS FAR AVAILABLE SUGGESTING THAT THIS MAY PROVE TO BE THE CASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SIX CASES OF C RATIONS, ENTRENCHING TOOLS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, ELECTRONIC TEST EQUIPMENT, OTHER FOOD ITEMS, CLOTHES AND A BOX OF MISCELLANEOUS TOOLS DISAPPEARED WITH THE MEN.

(B) THE TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BROADCASTS FROM THE TRANSMITTER ABOVE REFERRED TO SUGGEST THAT THE EQUIPMENT WAS SUBJECT TO FUNCTIONAL PROBLEMS BEFORE IT WENT OFF THE AIR SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. FOUR OF THE KIDNAPPED MEN ARE TECHNICIANS.

(C) BAGHDAD'S DOMESTIC RADIO SERVICE CARRIED AN ARABIC LANGUAGE BROADCAST AT 1130 HOURS GMT ON JULY 21, 1975 QUOTING A 'SPOKESMAN FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT' TO THE EFFECT THAT TWO AMERICANS AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS 'ARE NOW IN ONE OF THE REBEL BASES INSIDE ERITREA,' ADDING THAT THE MEN WERE TAKEN "FOR SECURITY REASONS CONNECTED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION."

(D) THE CISCO TRUCK USED BY THE ABDUCTORS TO REMOVE THE MEN FROM WORK SITE, WHICH LOCATED 12 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF ASMARA, WAS FOUND 17 KILOMETERS WEST OF ASMARA, SUGGESTING THAT THE GROUP MAY BE MOVING GENERALLY NORTHWEST. END STATEMENT

UNQUOTE.

3. WE THINK IT USEFUL AT THIS STAGE TO ACQUAINT POLICE/PUBLIC SECURITY HEADQUARTERS WITH THIS INFORMATION. BEYOND THIS WE ALSO WISH TO EXERCISE THESE LIAISON CHANNELS, WHICH ARE OBVIOUSLY CRUCIAL, AT AN EARLY STATE OF THIS CASE.
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